

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Please replace the pending claims with the following claim listing:

1-48. (Cancelled)

49. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for making snow or a snow-like substance comprising:

a [[container]] pressure vessel having a cooling space adapted to contain pressurized air or gas of above atmospheric pressure; and

at least one flexible walled vessel extending through the cooling space, the at least one flexible walled vessel being connectable to a water source, wherein the apparatus is operable to maintain the cooling space at a sufficiently low temperature to at least partially freeze the water within the flexible walled vessel.

50. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim 49 which is adapted to maintain a static pressure within the cooling space of the [[container]] pressure vessel.

51. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim 49 which is adapted to maintain a static pressure within the cooling space of the [[container]] pressure vessel and to periodically and temporarily increase the pressure within the cooling space externally of the at least one flexible walled vessel to compress the at least one flexible walled vessel.

52. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim [[49]] 51 further comprising a detachment aid to aid in detaching ice crystals and/or snow from the internal walls of the at least one flexible walled vessel, the detachment [[and]] aid comprising an inflation source to cyclically or intermittently at least partially inflate the at least one flexible walled vessel to effect dislodgement of the snow and/or ice crystals from the [[inner]] internal walls of the vessel.

53. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim 52 wherein the inflation source also serves to discharge the ice crystals and/or snow from within the at least one flexible walled vessel.

54. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim [[51]] 52, operable to temporarily increase the pressure in the cooling space of the [[container]] pressure vessel above the static pressure, at the frequency of between 10 and 15 inflation/deflation cycles of the at least one flexible walled vessel.

55. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim 49 further comprising spray nozzles to spray a heat transfer medium onto the at least one flexible walled vessel.

56. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 55 further comprising refrigeration equipment to chill the heat transfer medium, wherein the apparatus operates to circulate the heat transfer medium through the spray nozzles and the refrigeration equipment.

57. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim 56 wherein the at least one flexible walled vessel comprises a hose, pipe, tube or conduit, and the apparatus further includes a heater to heat the heat transfer medium, wherein the apparatus is operable to periodically bypass the refrigeration equipment and instead circulate the heat transfer medium through the heater and the spray nozzles.

58. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim [[57]] 53 wherein there are a plurality of flexible walled vessels arranged in groups and wherein each of the flexible walled vessels has a discharge valve and the discharge valves of each group are mechanically interconnected to operate in unison, with each group having their flexible walled vessels discharged at successive intervals.

59. (Currently Amended) A method for making snow or a snow-like substance, comprising:

- providing a container having a cooling space containing a fluid comprising substantially air with at least one flexible walled vessel extending through the cooling space;

- connecting the at least one flexible walled vessel to a source of fluid comprising substantially water;

- pressurising the cooling space within the container externally of the at least one flexible walled vessel to a pressure above atmospheric; and

- maintaining the cooling space to a sufficiently low temperature to at least partially freeze the fluid within the flexible walled vessel.

60. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 59 further comprising periodically and temporarily increasing the pressure within the container to compress the at least one flexible walled vessel.

61. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 59, further comprising maintaining a static pressure within the cooling space of the container and periodically and temporarily increasing the pressure within the cooling space to compress the at least one flexible walled vessel.

62. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 59 further comprising cyclically or intermittently at least partially inflating the at least one flexible walled vessel to effect dislodgement of the snow and/or ice crystals from the [[inner]] internal walls of the vessel.

63. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 59 further comprising spraying a chilled heat transfer medium onto the at least one flexible walled vessel.

64. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 63 further comprising periodically heating the heat transfer medium and spraying the heat transfer medium onto the at least one flexible walled vessel.

65.-67. (Cancelled)

68. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim [[65]] 55 further comprising a detachment aid to aid in detaching ice crystals and/or snow from the internal walls of the at least one flexible walled vessel wherein the detachment aid comprises an inflation source to cyclically or intermittently at least partially inflate the at least one flexible walled vessel to effect dislodgement of the snow and/or ice crystals from the ~~[[inner]]~~ internal walls of ~~the vessel thereof~~ and wherein the at least one flexible walled vessel includes an air release valve to release the air ~~from the vessel~~ therefrom and permit deflation thereof.

69. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 68 wherein the inflation source also serves to discharge the ice crystals and/or snow from within the vessel.

70.-72. (Cancelled)

73. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim [[70]] 63 further comprising manipulating the at least one flexible walled vessel to detach ice crystals and/or snow from the ~~[[inner]]~~ internal wall ~~of the vessel thereof~~, wherein the manipulation is provided by cyclically or intermittently at least partially inflating the at least one flexible walled vessel by a source of pressurized air or gas applied internally to ~~the vessel thereto~~, wherein the air or gas is permitted to bleed ~~from the vessel~~ therefrom to allow deflation.

74. (New) The apparatus as claimed in claim 49, wherein during operation of the apparatus, the cooling space of the pressure vessel contains pressurized air or gas of above atmospheric pressure.

75. (New) The apparatus as claimed in claim 49, further comprising an air source coupled with the pressure vessel for delivering a pressurized gas to the pressure vessel.